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TROLLEY NEEDS ANOTHER $500,000

DAVID CARSON • P-D

Operator says line won't start without added startup costs

BY MARK SCHLINKMANN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

The Loop Trolley Co. has notified key local officials that the long-delayed line won't begin operating unless it gets a new infusion of $500,000 to cover startup costs and initial operating deficits.

The nonprofit firm will be insolvent by January because of recurring delays in completing construction and testing and getting approval from federal and state regulators, Loop Trolley Co. President Les Sterman said in an Oct. 19 letter.

The letter, to St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger, St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson and others, cast new doubt on chances for success for the line,

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Spina bifida can't slow down Ballwin athlete

GIRL ON THE RUN

PHOTOS BY J.B. FORBES • jforbes@post-dispatch.com

Mia Balella, 10, takes off in her racing wheelchair with the other runners from Girls on the Run as they train for a race Nov. 9 during the after-school program at Oak Brook Elementary School in Ballwin.

BY J.B. FORBES
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Mia Balella, 10, loves sports, any kind of sports. The fact that she has spina bifida has not slowed her down.

Last year she joined Girls on the Run at her school, Oak Brook Elementary in Ballwin. It is an after-school program for girls designed to build confidence through running.

"I thought I could do that, too," Mia said.

The girls in the program have been preparing for a 5K race in downtown St. Louis on Saturday. Teams from schools across the area will participate.

"It's a huge event," said Emily Bernstein, one of Mia's coaches. "It's what they've been working for all season. They are getting themselves ready and building their confidence to know they can go out Saturday and do it."

Mia said she would "probably sleep on the way home after the race."

Bernstein said Girls on the Run was designed to foster self-confidence.

"We work on peer relationships and problem solving and character lessons as well as train for our 5K," she said.

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Mia Balella and classmates at Oak Brook Elementary School in the Parkway School District take part in games and stretching exercises Nov. 9 in the gym before going outside to run around the track.

Mia Balella is exhausted at the end of her training session with the other runners from Girls on the Run as they train Nov. 9 for a race. They will compete in a 5K race Saturday in downtown St. Louis.

Attorneys win second delay in Hupp murder trial

BY ROBERT PATRICK
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. CHARLES COUNTY • A judge postponed on Friday the murder trial of Pam Hupp, accused of fatally shooting a disabled man last year. A new date will be set within 10 days.

It was the second delay granted for the defense, which is common in murder cases and especially common in cases in which the prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Hupp

The trial was originally set for Oct. 3, then April 9.

Lawyer Kim Freter said the defense had not received everything from prosecutors, including stacks of paper, DVDs and CDs in a nearby cart that had not been turned over.

Freter said she and her colleagues were not prepared to try the case now and didn't know if they would be ready by April. She asked for another hearing

See HUPP • Page A3

Housing projects threatened by panel's move against tax credits

Greitens says cuts are part of needed reforms

BY JACOB BARKER
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

COLUMBIA, MO. • The Missouri Housing Development Commission voted Friday to stop issuing low-income housing tax credits, a move that sent a jolt through development professionals and probably put in jeopardy a number of projects in St. Louis and across the state.

But former state Sen. Jason Crowell, a longtime critic of the state's expensive tax credit programs who was appointed to the commission in September, hailed Friday's vote as "the single greatest step toward tax-credit reform in the history of the state of Missouri."

And Gov. Eric Greitens, who voted against the state credits, said the commission's action "saved tens of millions of dollars" and signaled that "politics

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Franken apologizes again, but fallout continues
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